

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Ron Macksoud, 334-242-8616**

## **MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN ALABAMA IS 3.4 PERCENT**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 20, 2007 . . . . . Alabama posted a 3.4 percent March unemployment rate, a slight increase from February's 3.3 percent figure.

"There were 1,855 more unemployed Alabamians in March compared to the previous month," says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. "Unemployment in Alabama continues to be among the lowest in the nation. The March jobless rate matches the 3.4 percent posted a year ago in March 2007 and remains well below the latest comparable national unemployment rate of 4.4 percent."

The lowest county rates for March are: Shelby (2.2 percent), Blount, Madison and Baldwin (2.5 percent), and Autauga and Chilton (2.6 percent). The highest county rates for March are: Wilcox (7.3 percent), Bullock (7.2 percent), Perry (6.7 percent), Lowndes (6.2 percent), Dallas (6.1 percent), and Chambers (5.5 percent).

Over the year, there was a net gain of 30,000 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+8,000); followed by government (+7,500); leisure and hospitality (+6,100); trade, transportation, and utilities (+5,800); and educational and health services (+4,600). The majority of employment losses was in manufacturing (-4,300).

# # #

County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.